

House Education Committee, July 15, 2009

Parent of three - 40 years of business experience - Teaching and learning about education

Two teen age boys who are both sixteen – no not twins. Adopted, each with a learning disability.

Support HB 4410 and the establishment of an alternative pathway, a CTE, to secondary graduation.

We have all heard in the press about how students in the Far East achieve higher test scores than American kids in Math and Science.

Why?

- The math scores story, Far East versus the US.....
- Seven digits versus nine digits – fifty percent....
- Short term memory loop ...
- 2 second cycles ...
- How we express numbers versus the number of characters used to express words
- What fits in two seconds....
- Size of vocabulary at age five – 2.5 larger
- 22 and 37, add them up....
- Now try “two tens – two” and “three tens – seven.... Fifty-nine!
- How numbers are expressed and fit the logic of math
- Language not “smarts” not harder work, or teaching methods or class size, or higher expectations....

The point? Learning is more than working harder and longer. It is not just “rigor.”

If you focus your energy on the wrong solutions to a non existent problem all you will do is increase frustration, disillusionment, hopelessness and dropouts!

An alternative pathway to graduation is an absolute necessity. Please support HB 4410.

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